

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the present amendment. Claims 1-12, 14-16, 18-30, and 32-33 are pending. Claims 1, 15, 18, 19, and 25 are amended and claim 34 is added. Claims 4 and 22 have been withdrawn. Claims 7-12, 14, 16, and 18 are allowed. Claim 18 is amended to correct a clerical error. Claim 18 is not amended to define over the prior art.

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 15, 25-30, and 32-33 if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 15, 25-30, and 32-33 are amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Therefore, claims 15, 25-30, and 32-33 are allowable.

Claims 1-3, 5-6, 19-21, and 23-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dinsdale et al. in view of Rink et al. Claims 1 and 19 have been amended to recite that said one of a distribution space (40) and an intermediate space (80) is free of propellant.

Neither Dinsdale nor the Rink nor any of the other prior art disclose or suggest that one of a distribution space and an intermediate space is free of propellant. Therefore, claims 1 and 19 are allowable. Claims 2-3 and 5-6, which depend on claim 1, are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein. Also, claims 20-21 and 23-24, which depend on claim

19, are therefore allowable as depending from an allowable claim and for the specific features recited therein.

Newly added claim 34 recites a gas generator comprising an elongated, tubular outer housing (10) and at least one combustion chamber (26, 28) provided therein and filled with a solid propellant (30; 30'). The gas generator further comprises at least one igniter unit (16, 18) generating ignition gas for igniting the solid propellant (30; 30') and having an igniter (54) integrated within the igniter unit (16, 18). The igniter unit (16, 18) is arranged radially and externally on the outer housing (10) and the igniter (54) is positioned completely outside of the outer housing (10). A, with respect to the outer housing (10), first radial ignition transfer opening (50) is provided in the outer housing (10).

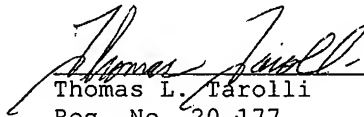
The ignition gas generated in the igniter unit (16, 18), before reaching the solid propellant (30; 30'), flows via the first ignition transfer opening (50) into one of a distribution space (40) and an intermediate space (80) arranged outside of the igniter unit (16, 18) and into an interior of the outer housing (10). The one of a distribution space (40) and an intermediate space (80) is defined by an inner face of the outer housing (10) and a wall (32). The wall (32) lies opposite and faces the first ignition transfer opening (50). Neither Dinsdale nor the Rink nor any of the other prior art disclose or suggest all of the features claimed in claim 34. Therefore, claim 34 is allowable.

In view of the foregoing, allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested. Please

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charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees
for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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